

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 21, 2003

Contact: Contact: Dave Schaechtele
Phone (831) 649-2900
e-mail daves@parks.ca.gov

Camping Experience to be Greatly Enhanced

Changes at Andrew Molera State Park

The Andrew Molera State Park Trail Camp will be closed March 31 through April 3, 2003 for maintenance and modification, and the result will be a greatly enhanced camping experience, State Parks officials announced today.

When the campground is reopened April 4th, there will be 24 identified sites. Camping will be allowed only at these sites with a maximum of four people per site. Registration will continue to be on a first-come, first-served basis.

The anticipated work at Trail Camp result from changes in the septic system, where new restrooms and associated leach fields have been installed. This work was done to meet health and safety standards and the original permit conditions for the campground. Improving the toilets at Andrew Molera State Park, however, alters how the camping area can be operated.

To keep within the carrying capacity of the new system, the Monterey County Department of Health has stipulated that the number of people in the camping area may never exceed 100 people. The establishment of 24 sites with a limit of four people per site will allow for maximum availability of individual campsites, yet continue to meet the required carrying capacity. Due to these changes, however, group camping at Trail Camp is no longer feasible.

"We realize these are significant changes for our visitors," said Big Sur Sector Superintendent Lois Harter. "State Park staff will make every effort to inform and work with the public to ensure a successful transition." She added that although the number of camping opportunities at Andrew Molera State Park will be reduced, the quality of the camping experience will be greatly enhanced.

Also effective April 4th, dogs at Andrew Molera State Park will be allowed only to the limits of the park's developed areas near the main parking lot. Dogs will not be allowed in undeveloped areas including trails, the beach, and Trail Camp.

###